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## USAID-funded Nicosia Master Plan Wins Aga Khan Architectural Award

Last year, the Nicosia Master Plan (NMP) project, largely funded by USAID, was awarded the world's largest architectural award—the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. While the International Aga Khan Award Ceremony was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Cyprus' local celebration took place on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in the Ledra Palace garden area, in Nicosia's buffer zone.

A collaborative and sustained effort between Cyprus' two communities to rehabilitate the walled city of Nicosia, the NMP project helped to reverse the city's physical and economic decline, using architectural restoration and reuse as the catalyst for peace and improvement to the quality of life on both sides of this divided city. The NMP received more than 16 million dollars between 1997 and 2004 from USAID through the UNDP Bi-Communal Development Program, the predecessor to Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT).

Out of the 343 projects that were presented for consideration, 27 were reviewed on site by international experts, and only nine were selected for the Award.



*U.S. Ambassador  
Ronald Schlicher  
praises the vision  
and cooperation that  
led to the success of  
the NMP.*



## Students Celebrate Earth Day by Making the Switch to Energy Saving Light Bulbs



On April 25, in celebration of Earth Day in the Turkish Cypriot community, the Energy Professionals' Association (EPA), with support from REAP, replaced the high-energy consuming incandescent light bulbs of two primary schools in Nicosia with energy efficient CF light bulbs. A total of 50 light bulbs were changed in the schools, mostly in the hallways, common areas, principal and teachers' rooms. Following the change of the light bulbs, EPA members made presentations about energy efficiency to every third and fourth grade classroom. Recycled handbags containing a CF energy efficient light bulb and an "efficient energy usage" brochure were distributed to the students at the end of each session.

*The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.*

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### *SAVE*

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SAVE is finalizing the Buyukkonuk Olive Mill information panels. The panels will be displayed at the SAVE-renovated traditional Olive Mill and Olive Oil Museum beginning on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the “Once Upon a Time Festival,” coordinated in collaboration with EDGE. SAVE’s Famagusta Walking Tour brochure is also almost ready for publication. The Clean Energy Group, which received a small grant from SAVE to install solar panels to provide efficient electricity to their workshop, will hold a presentation on their success and accomplishments next week.

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### *ACT*

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The preliminary results of the Youth Aspirations Survey were shared at the third Youth Advisory Board Workshop, part of the Cyprus Youth Dialogue Project. ACT-funded podcasts can now be listened to and vodcasts can now be viewed at UNDP-ACT’s new Podcast Library at <http://mirror.undp.org/cyprus/podcasting/>. Larnaca District Development Agency and the Action for Young Enterprises for Cyprus (AYEC) held Diversity Ambassador’s Workshops on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, respectively. The Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum’s (CESF) Annual Conference, that was held April 14-16, was very successful, with a cumulative attendance of 276 people. The CESF received 50 new applications for membership.

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### *EDGE*

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Thirteen commercial bankers completed the four-day “*Customer Oriented Service*” course and received their certificates at the April 17<sup>th</sup> awards ceremony. The Eco-Village brochure is in its final stages and will be complete in time for the “Once Upon a Time” Festival that will be held in Buyuykkonuk on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Agri-News, printed in English and Turkish, was distributed May 2<sup>nd</sup>. EDGE finalized the preparations for the Animal Feeding and Rationing Workshop, which will begin on May 5<sup>th</sup> and finalized the details for the cactus fruit study tour to Isreal.

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### *REAP*

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CORE Associations Expert Gretchen Severson was in the Turkish Cypriot community (TCC) until March 29<sup>th</sup> providing assistance to REAP in the development of the EPA. She focused on the development of EPA’s strategic direction, organizational development and operational management. She also helped to develop the work plan for the Earth Day event, which took place on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Another REAP consultant, John Tebbs, Transmissions Expert, has been working on synchronization of the transmission and distribution rules in the TCC with those of the Greek Cypriot community. He has collaborated with a working group that will facilitate the operation of a safe and efficiently run interconnected network. While in Cyprus, he updated his reintegration feasibility study report according to changes in the network since last year.



*The Kobi Center published its fourth edition of AgriNews, which includes a leaflet on composting.*



## News from Nicosia

**April 22, April 24**

The Cyprus working groups and technical committees held their first two meetings, giving the G/C and T/C members the opportunity to get to know each other, schedule future meetings, and begin work on economic issues.

## OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
  - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
  - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
  - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.